

public service. He was elected to the Longmont City Council in 1977 and served as the City's Mayor from 1981–1985. He also served as the Boulder County Republican Chairman from 1993–1994.

I had the good fortune to serve with Bill in the Colorado State House. I found him to be an affable, effective policy maker willing to reach across policy lines to act in the best interest of Colorado. Most important of all, Bill had a reputation for basing his votes on principle, and not on party or politics. At a time when voters seem to feel increasingly disenfranchised by what they view as partisan dogmatism, Bill Swenson represents public service that transcends partisanship.

He is a recognized leader on transportation and served as the Chairman of the Transportation and Energy Committee. His values of practicality and fiscal responsibility helped shape the tone for the entire transportation debate. In addition, he has worked to find common sense ways to encourage investment in renewable energy resources and enhance the diversification of energy resources in Colorado. These efforts may not result in colorful political sound-bites, but they will inevitably lead to a stronger economy and future generations of Coloradans will look back on Bill's service with gratitude.

I am proud to have served with Bill Swenson and proud to call him my friend. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring him for his exceptional service, I thank him for his good work, and I wish him continued good health and success in the future.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
BY REVEREND D. MICHAEL
TOBY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 27th, the congregation and community of Woodway, Texas honored Reverend D. Michael Toby for twenty-five years of dedicated service as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Woodway.

Reverend Toby graduated from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1974, where he won the H.C. Brown Jr. Award as the seminary's outstanding preaching student. On October 30, 1977, Reverend Toby joined the First Baptist Church of Woodway. Under his ministry, the church membership has grown to nearly four thousand people, requiring a new campus and larger facilities in 1990.

Under Reverend Toby's leadership, education programs in the church have been greatly expanded, winning First Baptist Woodway the "Fastest Growing Sunday School Award" three times between 1996 and 2000. Ministries within the church have been enriched with the addition of youth and adult discipleship groups, outreach efforts, prayer warrior and prayer room ministries, ministries for seniors, singles and college students, a church school, Bible Drill, Awana, Mother's Day Out, Young Women's Fellowship, Angel Tree, all age choirs and a Vacation Bible school that serves over 850 children each summer.

Reverend Toby has led his church in mission efforts both at home and abroad. In 1988,

the First Baptist Midway became a Key Church in the Mission Texas campaign, supporting the creation of churches like Brazos Meadows and West Robinson Baptist Church in Waco. Reverend Toby additionally encouraged members to lead mission trips to Russia, China, Africa, Mexico, the Philippines, Morocco, Turkey and other countries. Because of the financial commitment to these and other ministries, the church has been honored as one of the top 100 churches in the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Cooperative Program giving.

During his ministry, Reverend Toby continued his education and his role in public service. Presently, he is a candidate for the Doctorate of Ministry degree from the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary. He has served on the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and its human welfare board and public relations advisory committee. Within the community, Reverend Toby has served on the boards of Central Texas Good Will Industries and Special Wish, as president of the Rotary Service Club of Waco and as moderator and executive board member of the Waco Baptist Association.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the leadership and commitment of Reverend D. Michael Toby, and congratulating Reverend Toby and his wife Jackie on 25 years of dedication to the spiritual life and health of the community of Woodway and to Central Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 23RD
STREET ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to The 23rd Street Association on the occasion of their Annual Award Luncheon. This year, the 23rd Street Association is honoring North Fork Bank and Carolyn Drexel for their outstanding community involvement. In addition, the owners and management of the Flatiron building are being recognized on this, the building's centennial anniversary, for their dedication to the building's restoration and modernization.

Ranked number one by the leading industry publication U.S. Banker in their annual survey, North Fork Bancorp is considered one of the nation's top bank and thrift companies. North Fork was also ranked fourth among the top 100 banking companies that include all types of financial services companies. Organized in 1980, today, the total assets of the Bank are approximately \$19 billion with over 165 branch locations that provide a wide range of personal and commercial banking services throughout New York.

Carolyn Drexel joined North Fork Bank as part of a new Management Training Program in 1979. After landing a position in the Speonk office as the Assistant Branch Manager, she continued to advance her career, and in 1993 became a Senior Vice President in charge of the Branch Network. In April 1997, Ms. Drexel's professionalism and skill led her to take on the responsibilities of managing the entire Retail Division which includes the Branch Network, Marketing, Sales, Retail Op-

erations and the Cash Management Department. Ms. Drexel was promoted to Executive Vice President in January of 1998. As Vice President, she leads more than 2,300 employees of the Bank with 168 branches located from Eastern Long Island to Upstate New York. Ms. Drexel has also been a tenacious community activist, and has volunteered her time at various organizations including the Epilepsy Foundation, Salvation Army, Suffolk County Special Olympics, Yeshiva of South Shore. Most recently, Ms. Drexel was appointed to the Board of Directors of Safe Horizon.

The legendary three-sided structure at the intersection of Broadway, Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street, The Flatiron Building, is one of New York's oldest surviving skyscrapers. Opened in 1902, the building's unique architecture in the form of a geometrically perfect, straight-edged right triangle, separates it from the New York City streetscape. Now, thanks to a recent refurbishment under new owners and last year's \$5 million reconstruction of the six-acre oasis of Madison Square Park, the building continues to be the flagship of the reborn Flatiron district.

I would also like to commend the 23rd Street Association in their mission of enhancing the quality of life for families and businesses in the area bounded by the Hudson and East Rivers from 17th to 28th Street. Incorporated in 1929 by 22 local business people, today's 23rd Street Association has approximately 300 members. Their efforts have included conducting business-training programs in local junior high schools, mobilizing the community to bring about a \$2.5 million renovation of Madison Square Park, working with the local police to combat drug dealing and other crime, and developing annual summertime concert programming and children's entertainment in the community.

The Association is fortunate to represent individuals and organizations that are so committed to the advancement of their community. In recognition of the invaluable contributions and the selfless efforts of tonight's honorees, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting the 23rd Street Association on their annual award luncheon.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, a treasured Bronx institution and a historic house of worship that celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on November 1, 2002 at a dinner-dance and will commemorate the event at an anniversary Mass on November 24th.

Mr. Speaker, the Church of the Blessed Sacrament was established in July of 1927 per a request by Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Third Cardinal of New York. Cardinal Hayes asked Father Edward A. Loehr to establish a new Parish of Blessed Sacrament to serve South Bronx residents. More than seventy years later, Blessed Sacrament Parish is still thriving and serving a devoted congregation.